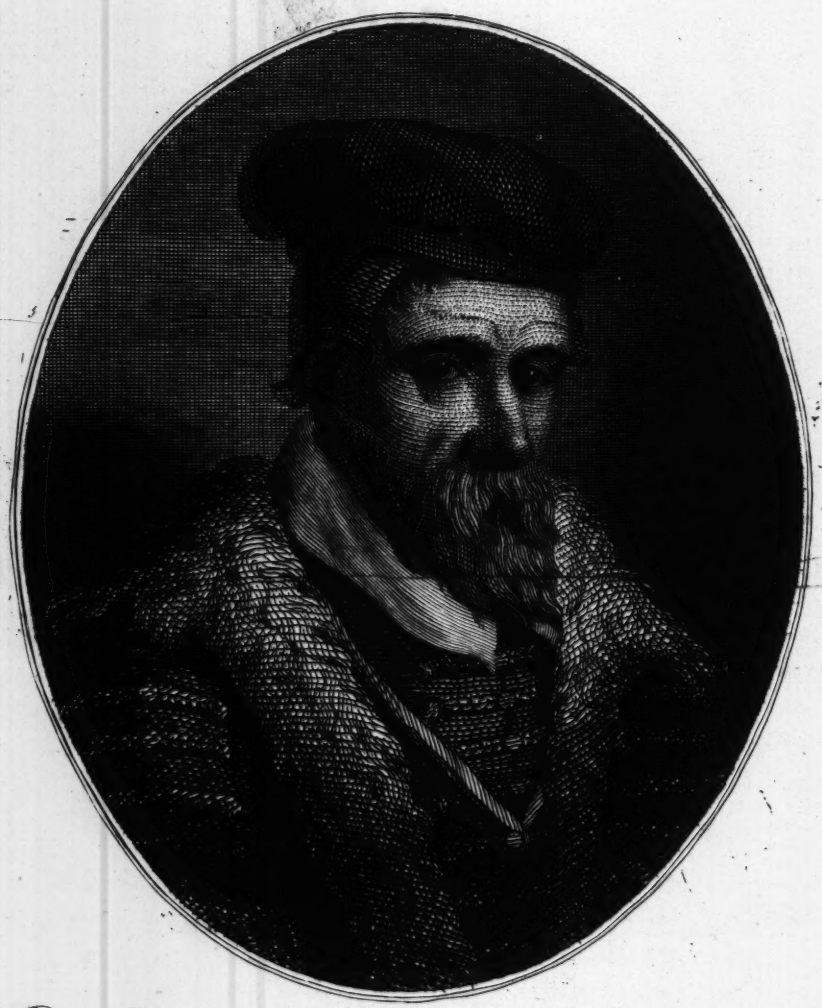
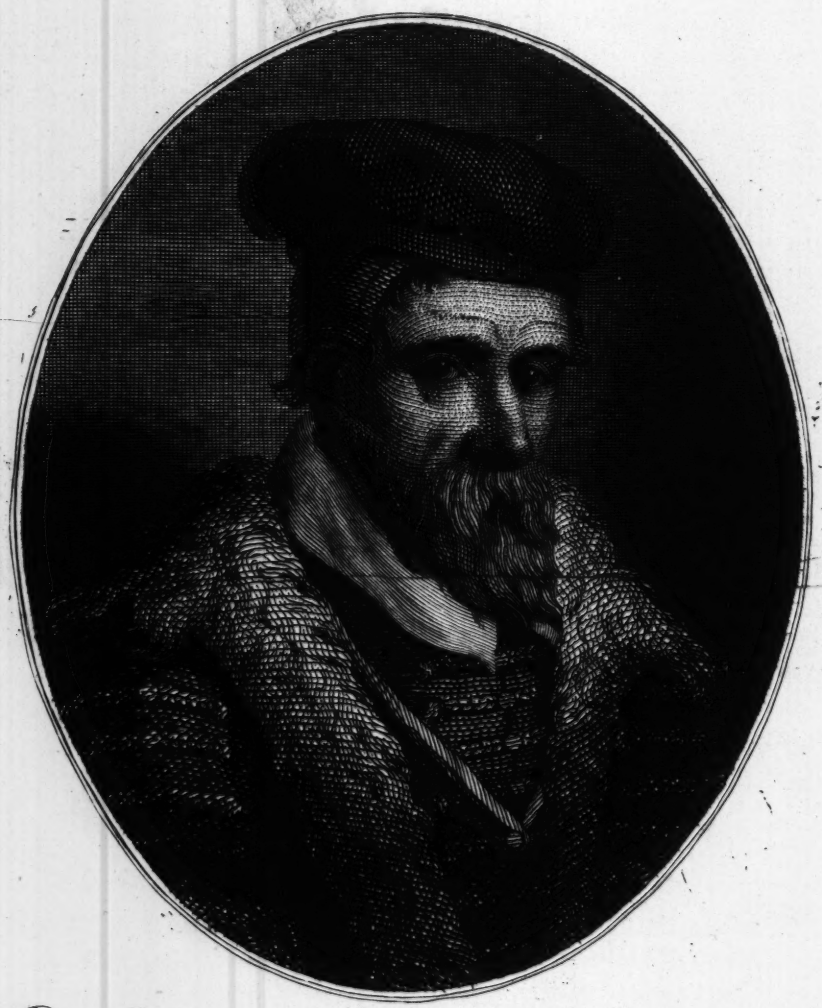


D. Duncan. Liddel. M.D Æt. LII.

Engraved by I. Bouge from an outline on tin



D. Duncan. Liddel. M.D Æt. LII.

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A

SKETCH

OF THE

LIFE

OF

DR. DUNCAN LIDDEL,

OF ABERDEEN,

PROFESSOR OF MATHEMATICS AND OF MEDICINE
IN THE UNIVERSITY OF HELMSTADT.

ABERDEEN:
PRINTED BY J. CHALMERS & CO.
SOLD BY MR. JAMES SIBBALD, EDINBURGH; AND
MR. J EVANS, PATER-NOSTER ROW, LONDON.

1790.

By Professor Stuart

SKETCH

Of the LIFE of

DUNCAN LIDDEL, M.D.

DR DUNCAN LIDDEL, ſon of John Liddel a reſpectable citizen of Aberdeen, was born there in the year 1561 [1]. He received the firſt part of his education in languages and philoſophy at the ſchools and univerſity of Aberdeen [2].

1 *Tabula ænea in Eccles. Aberden. conſervata.*
2 *Oratio habita Aberden.* 1696. *MS.*

1579. About the age of eighteen, Liddel having a great deſire to viſit foreign countries, went from Scotland to Dantzic, and from thence through Poland to Frankfort on the Oder, where John Craig, afterwards firſt phyſician to James the VIth King of Scots, then taught logic and mathematics [3]. Here Liddel, doubtful what courſe to purſue, and deſpairing of his future fortune, was kindly received by his countryman Craig, who afforded him his advice and aſſiſtance in the proſecution of his ſtudies: an obligation which Liddel gratefully acknowleges in a dedication to him of the firſt volume of his medical diſputations [4]. He was thus enabled to continue at the univerſity of Francfort for three years, where he applied himſelf very diligently to mathematics and philoſophy, under Craig and the other profeſſors, and alſo entered upon the ſtudy of phyſic [5].

3 *Jo. Caſelii ad Jo. Craigium Epiſtola Ded.*

4 *D. Liddelii Diſput. Med. Helmæſtad.* 1605.

5 *Jo. Caſelii Epiſt. Ded.*

1582. At this time, Dr. Craig being about to return to Scotland, ſent his young countryman to proſecute his ſtudies at Wratiſlaw or Breſlaw in Sileſia, recommending him to the care of that celebrated ſtateſman

Andreas Dudithius†. During his reſidence in this univerſity, Liddel is ſaid to have made uncommon progreſs in his favourite ſtudy of mathematics, under the direction of a very eminent profeſſor, Paulus Wittichius [6].

6 *Jo. Caſelii Epiſt. ded. Ty. Brahæ Epiſt. Aſtron. Lib. 1. p. 296. Norib.* 1601.

1584. Mr. Liddel having ſtudied here for more than a year, returned to Frankfort, and again applied himſelf to phyſic. He alſo began at the ſame time to receive pupils, whom he inſtructed in various branches of mathematics and philoſophy [7].

7 *Caſelii Epiſt. ded.*

1587. He now remained at Frankfort for about three years, when a contagious diſtemper having broke out there, and diſperſed the ſtudents, he retired to the univerſity of Roſtock, where, ſays Caſelius, his company was moſt acceptable to all, but eſpecially to Brucæus ‡, and myſelf, as well on account of the various learning which the young man poſſeſſed, as his modeſty and unwearied aſſiduity in ſtudying and teaching [8]. Here he renewed his ſtudies rather as a companion than a pupil of Brucæus, who though an excellent mathematician, did not ſcruple to confeſs that he was inſtructed by Mr. Liddel in the more perfect knowlege of the Copernican ſyſtem, and other aſtronomical queſtions [9]. For Caſelius likewiſe obſerves, that as far as he knows, *Mr. Liddel was the firſt perſon in Germany, who explained the motions of the heavenly bodies, according to the three different hypotheſes of Ptolemy, Copernicus, and Tycho Brahe* [10].

8 *Caſelii Epiſt. ded.*

9 *R. Diepholdii Orat. quatuor funebr. ada Helmæſt.* 1622.

10 *Caſelii Epiſt. ded.*

It was probably during Mr. Liddel's reſidence at Roſtock, that he firſt became acquainted with the Daniſh aſtronomer, who had formerly ſtudied in this univerſity, and afterwards maintained a frequent correſpondence with Brucæus [11]. For that Liddel was well known to this illuſtrious perſon,

11 *Gaſſendi in vita Ty. Brahæ, lib. 5.*

† As ſome readers may be ignorant *who* Dudithius was, it may not be improper to mention, that he was a biſhop of the Romiſh church, and ambaſſador from the emperor to the council of Trent: that he afterwards embraced the proteſtant religion, and at length became one of the ſect of Socinus. He died in 1589.

‡ A Scotſman might naturally enough imagine that *Brucæus* was *Bruce* latinized, and thence claim an intereſt in this profeſſor as his countryman. He was however a native of Aloſt in Flanders, and is celebrated by his contemporaries as an eminent phyſician and philoſopher. Having firſt read lectures at Paris and Rome, he finally ſettled at Roſtock, where he died 1593.

perſon, and paid him ſeveral viſits in the courſe of his journeys to Scotland, appears from various authorities to be unqueſtionable [12].

12 *Caſelii Epiſt. ded. Diepholdii Orat. Funebr.*

In this univerſity, Mr. Liddel had conferred on him the degree of maſter of philoſophy, which probably is the ſame with what is now called maſter of arts [13].

13 *Caſelii Epiſt. ded.*

1590. About this time, having greatly improved himſelf at Roſtock in the ſtudies of medicine and mathematics, he returned once more to Frankfort, at the requeſt of two Livonian young men of quality, who were probably his pupils † [14]. But having there heard of the increaſing reputation of the *Academia Julia* eſtabliſhed at Helmſtadt in 1576 [15], by Henry Julius Duke of Brunſwick, Mr. Liddel and his companions ſoon removed thither. His friend Caſelius alſo, after having taught philoſophy for twenty five years at Roſtock, was now ſettled there, having been invited by duke Julius to the ſame chair in his new univerſity. This was an additional motive for Mr. Liddel's journey to Helmſtadt, where he no ſooner arrived, than he waited upon Caſelius, with whom from that time he became very intimate, having lodged in his houſe for ſeveral years [16].

14 *Caſelii Epiſt. ded.*
15 *Conringius de antiquitat. Academ.*

16 *Caſelii Epiſt. ded.*

1591. Soon after his arrival, the firſt or lower profeſſorſhip of mathematics becoming vacant, by the removal of Parcovius to the faculty of medicine §, Mr Liddel had the good fortune to be appointed to it, chiefly by the recommendation of Caſelius, and Henry Grunefeldt an eminent lawyer [17].

17 *Caſelii Epiſt. ded. N. Frobeſii Profeſſorum in Acad. Julia memoriæ reſuſcitatæ.* 1747.

1594. Having taught with much reputation in this lower department, (upon the death of Erhardus Hoffman) Mr Liddel now ſucceeded to the ſecond and more dignified mathematical chair, which according to the teſtimony of many of his colleagues and contemporaries, he occupied

† It is probably to theſe young Livonians that Liddel dedicates his *Theſis*, upon obtaining the degree of M. D. at Helmſtadt in 1596. He calls them *John & Magnus a Nolden*, brothers, knights of Livonia, the elder engaged in civil purſuits at home, the younger then fighting in the imperial army againſt the Turks.

§ In this univerſity there are four *faculties*, law, divinity, phyſic, and philoſophy. The profeſſors, when admitted into any of theſe faculties, are termed *ordinarii*, before ſuch admiſſion *extraordinarii*, and they who belonging to a particular faculty, give public lectures, *publici*.

ed for nine years, with much credit to himſelf and to the Julian academy. [18] During this period, he gave repeated courſes of lectures on geometry, aſtronomy, and univerſal geography; inſtructing his pupils in the whole circle of mathematical ſcience, and particularly in the new theories of the planetary ſyſtem, which untill his time were very imperfectly underſtood or taught in that country [19]. †

18 *Caſelii Epiſt. ded. N. Frobeſius.*

19 *Caſelii Epiſt. ded. Diepholdii Orat. antea citat.*

1596. He obtained the degree of M. D. was admitted a member of that faculty, and began publicly to teach phyſic. Nor was he leſs diſtinguiſhed in this new profeſſion than he had been in the former. Caſelius obſerves, "*ut cum ſe nemini collegarum præferret, nemini tamen in hac dignitate ſe inferiorem geſſerit*" [20]. It is farther ſaid of him, that by his teaching and writings, he was the chief ſupport of the medical ſchool at Helmſtadt, was employed as firſt phyſician at the court of Brunſwick, and had much practice among the principal families of that country [21].

20 *Caſelii Epiſt. ded.*

21 *Caſelii Epiſt. ded. C. A. Bodii Funeralia &c. MS. R. Diepholdii Orat. J. C. Boehmer memor. Profeſs. Helmæſtad. proluſiones. Guelferb. 1719.*

1599. He was choſen dean of the faculty of philoſophy, and while he held this honourable office, he is ſaid to have conferred the degrees of maſter of arts and doctor of philoſophy, upon twenty pupils, ſome of whom became afterwards very eminent; particularly Jo. Nendorfius of Goſlar, and Henn. Arniſæus and Joan. Wolfius, both celebrated profeſſors of medicine [22].

22 *Bodii Funeralia &c. Frobeſii opus antea citat.*

1603. Altho' Dr Liddel had been admitted into the faculty of phyſic in 1596, and had from that time publicly taught in this faculty, yet he continued to give lectures in mathematics until the preſent year, when he reſigned that chair, and was ſucceeded by Henr. Schaperus [23].

23 *Frobeſius.*

1604. Having been ſeveral times elected dean of the faculties both of philoſophy and phyſic, he had the honour this year of being choſen pro-rector of the univerſity [24].

24 *Frobeſius.*

1607. But neither academical honours, nor the profits of an extenſive practice abroad could make Dr. Liddel forget his native country. Having

† His title then was, as appears from his public diſputations—"*D. Liddelius Scotus mathematum Profeſſor primarius*",—or—"*ſuperiorum mathematum Profeſſor*"—to which he afterwards added—"*M. D. & Medicinæ Profeſſor Publicus.*

ing already made ſeveral journeys to Britain during his reſidence at Helmſtadt, he now determined to retire thither for the remainder of his life [25]. Accordingly in the beginning of this year, he took a final leave of the *Academia Julia*, and after travelling for ſome time thro' Germany and Italy, he at length ſettled in Scotland † [26].

25 *Frobeſius Caſelii Epiſt. ded.*

26 *Oratio habita Abredon. MS.* 1696.

Several reaſons may have induced him to retire thus early from public life. Caſelius aſcribes it in part to the ſollicitations of his friend Dr John Craig, but chiefly to the unſettled ſtate of the univerſity; for ſuch were the troubles in Germany during the former year, that many ſtudents unwillingly left it, and among others a nephew of Craig's, under the tuition of Liddel, who on that occaſion was ſent by him to Padua [27]. Caſelius ſays farther, that Dr. Liddel went away without the permiſſion of the Duke of Brunſwick, and that had he been informed of his intention, he would not probably have allowed ſuch a valuable member of his favourite academy to have left it [28].

27 *Caſelii Epiſt. ded.*

28 *Caſelii Epiſt. ad fin.*

1612. Where Dr. Liddel reſided, or how he was employed during theſe few years after his return from Germany, no information can now be obtained, only that he was occaſionally at Edinburgh, and probably lived chiefly at Aberdeen, among his relations. On the 12th of July in this year he was at Edinburgh, where he ſubſcribed his firſt deed of ſettlement of that date, by which he beſtows certain lands purchaſed by him near Aberdeen, upon the univerſity there, in all time coming, for the education and ſupport of ſix poor ſcholars. Among a variety of regulations and injunctions for the management of this charity, he appoints the magiſtrates of Aberdeen his truſtees, and ſolemnly denounces the curſe of God againſt any perſon who ſhall abuſe or miſapply it [29].

29 *Records of Mariſchal College, Aberdeen.*

1613. Upon the ninth of December in this year, he executed at Aberdeen another deed of ſettlement, by which he confirms his former donation, and farther bequeaths to the Mariſchal College, for the endow-

‡ In the dedication of his *Ars Medica* to king James, he himſelf ſays, "*me quoque in patriam redeuntem* POST EXACTOS ANNOS FERE OCTO ET VIGINTI *in exterorum regionum academiis---primum in aliis Germaniæ, poſtremo in Academia Julia,* ANNIS NUNC DECEM ET SEPTEM."

ment of a profeſſorſhip of mathematics, the ſum of 6000 merks, which having been afterwards judiciouſly laid out, by the magiſtrates his truſtees, in the purchaſe of lands in the neighbourhood, now produces a very conſiderable ſalary to that profeſſor. He alſo bequeaths his whole collection of books and mathematical inſtruments to the ſame college, directing a ſmall ſum to be expended annually in adding to the collection, and another to be diſtributed among the poor [30].

30 *Records of M. College.*

This appears to have been the laſt act of Dr Liddel's life, and was probably executed by him while on his death-bed, for he therein recommends that the deed ſhould be more formally extended, "*thir preſents being made upon a ſuddenty*," and he died eight days after, December the 17th, in the fifty ſecond year of his age. His body was buried in the weſt church of Aberdeen, formerly called St. Nicholas' or the old church, where the magiſtrates placed in memory of him a large tablet of braſs, ‡ upon which is engraved a figure of the deceaſed in his profeſſor's gown and cap, ſurrounded by books and inſtruments, and accompanied with a ſuitable inſcription †. They alſo erected a pillar upon the lands left by him to the College, bearing a modeſt inſcription dictated by himſelf in his firſt ſettlement. *

Dr

‡ It appears from the records of the town of Aberdeen, anno 1622, that this plate was executed at Antwerp, and that the expence of engraving, bringing over, and placing it in the Church, amounted to £. 933. 6. 8. Scots. From this plate the *Head* of the Doctor hereto prefixed is executed.

† *Sub ſpe beatæ reſurrectionis, hic quieſcit D. Duncanus Liddelus Doctor Medicus, Jo. Liddeli Civis Aberdon. Filius. Obiit 17mo. Decembr. anno MDCXIII. Ætatis ſuæ LII——Æternæ memoriæ D. Duncani Liddeli Doct. Medici, quem virtus naſcentem excepit, recondita in Medicinæ et omnibus Philoſophiæ ac Matheſeos partibus, peritia natum excoluit, Liberalitas ſupra æquales extulit, cui annuum ſtipendium debet publicus Matheſeos in Academia Abredonenſi Profeſſor, victumque ejuſdem Academiæ ſex Alumni.*

Fama poſthuma meritorum perpetua teſtis.

M. H. D. C. Q.

* *Anno a Chriſto nato MDCXIV. authoritate Regis Ordinumque Regni, hanc Villam agroſque de Pitmedden ſex alumnis Literarum Studioſis in academia Abredonenſi, dicavit, confirmavitq; Duncanus Liddelius Medicinæ Doctor.*

Sic lux veſtra luceat.

Dr Liddel, having never been married, left the remainder of his fortune to his brother John Liddel, and a Siſter, both of whom had children, [31] and ſome of whoſe deſcendents are ſtill alive in Aberdeen. One ſon of his brother John is well known to have ſucceeded Dr William Johnſton, in the mathematical chair endowed by his uncle; but the young man having acted imprudently, was according to the author here referred to, moſt unjuſtly deprived of his office [32].

31 *Records of M. College.*

32 *Tracts by Sir T. Urquhart Edinbr. 1774. p. 126*

Of the writings of Dr Liddel, the following, whereof the greater part is ſtill preſerved in the Library of Mariſchal College, Aberdeen, to which he bequeathed his Books and MSS. are all that can be diſcovered.

1. *Diſputationum Medicinalium Duncani Liddelii Scoti, Phil. & Med. Doctoris, et Profeſſoris Publici in Academia JULIA. Helmæſtadii* 1605.

This work conſiſts of four volumes in 4to. of *Theſes* maintained by himſelf and his pupils at Helmſtadt from 1592 to 1606; among others is that written by him upon receiving the degree of M. D. The ſubject is "*de Melancholia*," and it is dedicated, in teſtimony of his eſteem and gratitude, to the two brothers *a Nolden* formerly mentioned. To the firſt volume is prefixed an affectionate dedication to his old friend and firſt patron Dr. Craig, in which he thankfully acknowledges his obligations to him, and begs his acceptance of the firſt fruits of his medical ſtudies. Annexed to theſe *Theſes* are alſo, in the faſhion of the times, a number of poems in praiſe of Dr Liddel and his works, by his colleagues and pupils, of which theſe few verſes will afford a ſufficient ſpecimen.* In theſe *Diſputations* appear to be contained the firſt ſketches of all his medical writings, which having afterwards corrected and enlarged, he publiſhed ſeparately under a different form. They are full of MS. notes written by his own hand. Another edition of theſe *Diſputations* appears to have been publiſhed after the

* "*Te Brucæus amabat, coluit Dudithius, Braha*
Demiratur acumen genii Scotigenæ inclytus.

"*Te vero Duncane, æternum JULIA amabit,*
"*Æternaſq; tibi decernit præmia laudes.*

the author's death, and is quoted by Mangetus under the following title. "*Universæ Medicinæ Compendium, quod nervosis aliquot Disputationibus in illustri Julia quondam inclusit D. Liddelius Scotus, &c. Helmæstadii* 1720." 4to. [33].

33 *Mangeti Biblioth. Script. Med. Genevæ* 1731. *voce Liddelius.*

2. *Ars Medica, succincte et perspicue explicata, auctore Duncano Liddelio Scoto. Hamburgi* 1607. 8vo.

This work is dedicated to King James the VIth, and was perhaps published under the author's own inspection, upon leaving Helmstadt in this very year. It consists of five books.

Lib. 1.	*Introductio in totam Medicinam,*	*Cap.* 4.
2.	*De Physiologia,*	*Cap.* 15.
3.	*De Pathologia,*	*Cap.* 14.
4.	*De Signorum Doctrina,*	*Cap.* 10.
5.	*De Therapeutica,*	*Cap.* 24.

Another edition of this work was published at Lyons 1624 in 4to. by Ludovicus Serranus physician there, who in a short preface, finds much fault with the incorrectness, inelegance, and what he calls ἀταξία of that of Hamburgh, and boasts of having greatly improved it. Upon comparing it however with the former, and even a later Hamburgh edition, there appears no other improvement, than his having reduced the work from five books into four, by throwing the two first into one, under the general title of *Physiologia* ‡. A third edition of the *Ars Medica* was published at Hamburgh 1628, 12mo. by Frobenius a bookseller there, with a dedication to Dr Patrick Dun, principal of the Marischal College of Aberdeen, to whom he acknowledges great obligations, for having furnished him with a copy enlarged and corrected in the author's own hand writing. To this edition is also prefixed the letter from Caselius to Dr. John Craig so often quoted, and which is dated at Helmstadt in May 1607. Frobenius makes no mention of the edition of Serranus.

3.

‡ Serranus shews a great veneration for his author, and mistaking his christian for his sirname, calls him "*Duncanus in arte medica vere* CANUS, *et Medicorum nostri Sæculi Decanus*". He also pays him his tribute of poetical praise.

"*Gente Caledonius Duncanus, et arte Pelasgus*
"*Divini Hippocratis mysteria clausa recludit.*

3. *De Febribus Libri tres, Authore Duncano Liddelio Scoto, Hamburgi* 1610, 12*mo.*

Dr. Liddel dedicates this treatiſe to Henry Frederic, prince of Scotland and Wales, ſon of King James the VIth, and ſubſcribes *D. L. Aberdonenſis M. D.* It is alſo republiſhed by Serranus along with the *Ars Medica, Lugduni* 1624, 4*to.*

4. *Duncani Liddelii Tractatus de Dente Aureo, &c. Hamburgi, ex Biblioth. Frobeniana* 1628, 12*mo.*

As the ſubject of this treatiſe is perhaps not generally known, and is ſomewhat curious, the following ſhort account of it may not be unacceptable. Jacobus Horſtius, doctor and profeſſor of medicine in the *Academia Julia*, at the ſame time with our author, publiſhed a truly ridiculous performance, and dedicated it to the emperor Rudolphus the ſecond; [35] in which from ocular inſpection, and by many learned arguments, he endeavours to vindicate the truth of a popular ſtory then current, of a poor boy of Sileſia, who at ſeven years of age having loſt ſome of his teeth, his parents were aſtoniſhed at the appearance of a new one of pure gold. Horſtius ſeriouſly looks upon this wonderful tooth as a prodigy ſent from heaven to encourage the Germans, then at war with the Turks: from it foretells the future victories of the Chriſtians, with the final deſtruction of the Turkiſh Empire and Mahometan faith, and a return of the golden age in 1600, preparatory to the end of the world. This wretched performance Dr. Liddel takes the trouble to refute, as he ſays, for the honour of the *Academia Julia*, and becauſe the reveries of his colleague were obtaining too much credit in that ignorant age. He appears however aſhamed to treat the ſubject ſeriouſly, but employs the powers of irony and ridicule againſt his unfortunate opponent with much ſucceſs. He ſays, he ſhould as ſoon believe that the whole body of the boy was made of gold as one of his teeth, talks of idle dreams and old women's tales, and hints that the brain of a certain perſon, whom for the ſake of

35 *Ja. Horſtii Tractat. de aureo dente Pueri Sileſii, Lipſiæ* 1595.

his reputation, he is unwilling to name, would require a little hellebore.†

There is alſo another work publiſhed concerning this ſingular controverſy, by Ingolſtaterus a phyſician of Nuremberg [36], who likewiſe combats the opinion of Horſtius, proving the golden tooth to be monſtrous and unnatural, and ſuggeſting that it was moſt probably the work of the devil. But the impoſture, as might be imagined, was ſoon after diſcovered to be a thin plate of gold, ſkilfully drawn over a natural tooth by an artiſt of that country, with a view to excite the public admiration and charity. [37]

36 *Vitæ German. Medicor. a Melch. Adamo, Heidelberg.* 1620.

37 *Van Dale de Oraculis Lib.* 1.

5. *Artis conſervandi Sanitatem, Libri duo, a C. D. Doctore Liddelio defuncto delineati, opera & ſtudio D. Patricii Dunæi M. D. &c. Aberdoniæ* 1651, 12*mo.*

In the preface to this work, Dr Dun, who had ſtudied Phyſic at Helmſtadt under Dr Liddel, ſays, that having found the MS. among his papers, he thought it a duty he owed to the public and his old maſter, to complete and publiſh it, or in his own words, "*ad colophonem perducere, & in apricum proferre.*" ‡

Of the merit of theſe medical works of Dr. Liddel, the author of this ſketch does not conſider himſelf as a proper judge, nor is it now perhaps neceſſary that it ſhould be eſtimated with much preciſion. They appear however to contain the moſt *faſhionable* opinions and practice in the medical art, of the age in which he lived; nor is there almoſt any diſeaſe or medical

† He concludes thus, "*Hæc ſunt præcipua iſtius Libelli de aureo dente fundamenta: cætera enim attingere nunc minime decrevi: ſed ut dignitati hujus academiæ conſulatur, ſeriis illis noſtris iſta ludicra ſolum miſcere; ac ſimul ab hujuſmodi ſcriptoribus obnixe petere, ut deſinant ſua ſomnia pro Oraculis Imperatori, ſummiſq; principibus obtrudere.*"

‡ In *Haller's Bibliotheca*, after Dr. Liddel's other writings, is mentioned the following, but being anonymous, cannot certainly be aſcribed to this author. "*Univerſæ Medicinæ Synopſis in tabulis quatuor methodice collecta. Item libri ſex Galeni de morborum & ſymptomatum differentiis & cauſis, &c.*" *Vicetiæ* 1595 *fol.*

medical ſubject then known, of which he has not treated in one or other of his writings. His frequent quotations from Hippocrates, Galen and Ariſtotle, point out the ſchool in which he had been educated, while thoſe from the Greek and Latin Claſſics, ſhow that their works were alſo familiar to him. But the chief teſtimony in favour of his writings is, that beſides receiving the diſtinguiſhed approbation of his colleagues and contemporaries, they are alſo mentioned with reſpect by ſucceeding authors. ‡ Of his language it may be ſufficient to obſerve, that the Latin is at leaſt as pure as is generally found among medical writers, and that his ſtyle is plain and perſpicuous, and ſometimes even elegant.

Whether he publiſhed any other works than thoſe here enumerated, is ſomewhat uncertain. Among his academical *Diſputations* are two or three ſhort *Theſes* upon ſubjects of the Ariſtotelian philoſophy; but nothing has been found written by him on his favourite ſcience of mathematics. That he was well acquainted with Tycho Brahe, and paid him ſeveral viſits, has been already obſerved, yet no traces are now to be found of their having correſponded together, or of any diſpute between them upon aſtronomical ſubjects.— There is indeed one author, of whoſe writings the character and authenticity are perhaps ſomewhat doubtful, who is very deciſive on this ſubject [38]. "Theſe mathematical blades, ſays he, put me in mind of that Doctor Liddel, who for his profoundneſs in thoſe ſciences of ſenſible immaterial objects, was every where much renowned, eſpecially at Francfort de Main, Francfort on the Oder, and Heidelberg, where he was almoſt as well known as the monſtrous Bacchanalian tun that ſtood there in his time. He was an eminent profeſſor of mathematics, a diſciple

38 *Tracts by Sir T. Urquhart Edinbr. 1774. p. 125.*

‡ Among others are the following. *Thomaſinus de Scriptoribus & Literatis claris—Herm. Conringii Introductio in artem medicam, Halæ* 1726—*paſſim.* In *Cap.* 5. 10. he ſays, "*Nec fraudandus* "*ſua laude Duncanus Liddelius, Juliæ noſtræ decus, doctrina pathologica ut compendioſe ita ſatis exquiſite* "*expoſita*"—*Alb. Halleri Bibliotheca Med. Prac. 4to. Bernæ* 1777 *vol.* 2.—*Schola Hippocratica, pp.* 316, 317. After a full and tolerably accurate enumeration of Dr Liddel's writings, he ſays of the *Ars Medica*, "*Plenum opus, quo præter phyſiologiam, pathologia, therapeutica, morbi a capite ad calcem tradun-* "*tur, deniq; medicamentorum facultates & compoſitio, victuſq; ratio. Ex veteribus cæterum collectanea* "*tradit*"—Of the Treatiſe *de Febribus*, he obſerves, "*plenum & fuſum opus ad veterum ſaporem*"—And of that *De dente aureo*—"*Fraudem fuiſſe, quam vir nobilis percuſſo juvene detexerit. Somnia Jacobi Horſtii, et portentum excidium imperii Turcici refutat.*"

ciple of the moſt excellent aſtronomer Tycho Brahe, and condiſciple of that worthy Longomontanus: yet in imitation of Ariſtotle (whoſe doctrine with great proficiency he had imbued) eſteemed more of truth than of either Socrates or Plato, when the new ſtar began to appear in the conſtellation of Caſſiopæia, there was concerning it ſuch an interſhocking of opinions betwixt Tycho Brahe and Doctor Liddel, evulged in print to the open view of the world, that the underſtanding reader could not but have commended both for all, and yet (in giving each his due) praiſed Tycho Brahe moſt for Aſtronomy, and Liddel for his knowledge above him in all the other parts of philoſophy." Upon what authority this laſt circumſtance is founded, cannot be diſcovered, for there is no mention of it in either of the very full accounts of the life and writings of Tycho Brahe, by Gaſſendi and Montucla, nor in a large volume written by Tycho himſelf concerning this new Star; altho' he there animadverts at great length upon the opinions of many other aſtronomers, who had alſo treated of it—Nor could any ſuch controverſy have poſſibly happened *at the time* mentioned by Sir Thomas Urquhart, for the new ſtar there ſpoken of was obſerved by Tycho Brahe in 1572, and the account of it publiſhed by him in 1573[39], when Dr. Liddel was only twelve years of age. There is indeed in the volume of aſtronomical epiſtles of Tycho Brahe,[40] a long letter from him to his friend Rothmannus, chiefly filled with ſevere reflections upon the publications of a certain Scotſman againſt his account of the Comet of 1577, not of the new ſtar in Caſſiopæia; but it appears from Gaſſendi that this Scottiſh writer was Dr Craig formerly mentioned, and not Dr. Liddel[41]. *

39 *Montucla voce Ty. Brahe.*

40 *Epiſt. Aſtron. Lib 1. p. 296. Noriberg. 1601, 4to.*

41 *Gaſſendi de vita Tych. Brahæ Vol. 4. Lib. 4 Lugd. 1658.*

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* We find from this epiſtle that the perſon who had the courage to oppoſe the Daniſh Aſtronomer reſided in Scotland, and that the title of his laſt and principal work was—*Capnuraniæ reſtinctio, ſeu Cometarum in Æthera ſublimationis refutatio*—Of this work and its author Tycho ſays—" *Is vero qui præ cæteris noſtrum in re Cometica ſtudium elevare et oppugnare attentavit, Scotus quidem natione fuit, Medicinæ Galenicæ Doctor, & Ariſtoteleæ Philoſophiæ ſupra modum addictus, quem hic nominare nolo, ejus honori parcens. Vult quidem is genere nobilis haberi, uti de ſeipſo nonullibi inſinuat, &c. . . . Nec tam Scotice quam Scoptice agit . . . . Cum multis enim e Scotia oriundis, tam doctrina quam genere claris mihi res fuit, in quibus eximium candorem pari humanitate conjunctum animadverti; quibus etiam ingenii et judicii acumen ſingulare non defuit. At, qui tam ingrato et averſo animo, tamq; petulanti lingua, me meaq; inceſſeret, hactenus ſenſi neminem*". Lib. 1. Epiſt. Aſtronom. p. 296.

From the above view of the life and writings of Dr. Liddel, ſome judgement may be formed of his general character and merits. It has been ſhewn that he was well received and patronized by the moſt eminent ſcholars in every univerſity where he ſtudied; and that in a foreign country, without fortune or the connections of family, he arrived at the higheſt honours of his profeſſion, and was diſtinguiſhed as one of the firſt phyſicians and philoſophers of his time. He appears to have always entertained a moſt grateful ſenſe of the favours conferred on him in his youth, and to have been warmly attached to his native country and his friends [42]. That he was alſo highly eſteemed and beloved by them, is evident from the *Carmina Encomiaſtica* addreſſed to him in Latin and in Greek, by many of his colleagues in the *Academia Julia* and others——tho' it muſt be acknowledged that there is none to be found from the learned Profeſſor *Horſtius*. †

42 *Dedicatio ad Jo. Craigium.*

Caſelius obſerves, that as Dr. Liddel lived in his houſe for ſeveral years, he had an opportunity of being perfectly acquainted with him, that he was of a modeſt and agreeable diſpoſition, and entirely free from envy, altho' by no means inſenſible of his own merit. The ſame writer likewiſe informs us, that he never ſhewed any inclination to matrimony (a ſubject on which he was ſometimes rallied by his companions) ‡ and this circumſtance, while it facilitated his departure from Germany, no doubt enabled him alſo to make the better proviſion for his future ſupport in his own country. The exact account of his fortune

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† Among others are found the following——*Jo. Caſelius P. P.—Albertus Clampius J. U. D. Theod. Adamius J. U. D.— Henr. Meibomius Poeta Cæſarius Acad. Juliæ Poet. & Hiſt. P. Joannes Potinius Verdenſis—M. Adamus Luchtenius—Cornelius Martinus Antuerpius in Acad. Julia Logices Profeſſor—Salomon Frencelius in inclyta Julia* ἠθικῶν *Profeſſor.*

‡ In a Poem addreſſed to him by his colleague T. Adamius, are the following verſes—

Quando tibi tædæ urentur, Duncane, jugales;
(Utque brevi, votis annuat almus Hymen)
Carmina et ipſe canam ad grandem compoſta cothurnum,
Accerſam et cunctos in tua cæpta DEOS.

cannot now be aſcertained; it muſt however have been very conſiderable for thoſe times, ſince, beſides his liberal donations to Mariſchal College, which he mentions in his will as only "*a part of his worldly ſubſtance*," he probably beſtowed no ſmall portion of it upon his ſurviving brother and ſiſter.——But whatever fortune he may have acquired in the exerciſe of an honourable profeſſion, the benevolent purpoſes to which he applied it, will long ſecure to him the grateful remembrance of his native city, while his writings and reputation as one of the firſt ſcholars of his age, certainly entitle him to a diſtinguiſhed place in our Scottiſh Biography.

FAMA POSTHUMA MERITORUM PERPETUA TESTIS.